

HIS 401.02
Senior Colloquium: The Apocalypse

Satisfies: EXP+, SPK, WRTD

Thursday: 3:30-6:20pm

Professor Eric Miller

Many people today associate the term “Apocalypse” with the “End of the World.” But, in fact, it began as a specific genre of ancient Jewish and early Christian literature that was not necessarily connected with the “End Times.” This course will examine the origins of this apocalyptic literature and its shifting worldview through the related ancient texts (such as the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation), tracing their connection to “Eschatology,” or the beliefs about the “End Times,” and follow the evolution of their ideas, interpretations, and concepts, as echoed during a few key points throughout history and culminating in the Modern World. Students will be asked to choose an example of apocalyptic belief displayed by an individual or group from a period of their choice and interest, and to write an in-depth, well-documented, properly-sourced, 10–12-page research paper exploring the ideas and influence of this person/group, as well as giving a presentation to the class explaining the highlights and conclusions of their research. Additionally, intermediate preparatory exercises and drafts will be required and discussed at various intervals to improve writing skills and oral presentation ability.